191. The Dáhánu Sub-Division is in abeyance owing to the transfer of Mr. Robinson, Extra Assistant Conservator of Forests, together with his office establishment to the Southern Circle. It is to be regretted that, owing to the paucity of officers available, the full strength of four sub-division officers was not maintained for a portion of the year in the Thána District, in which extensive felling operations are carried on all throughout the dry season. The following officers held charge of the several sub-divisions during the year :—

No.	Division.	Name of Officer.	Rank.	Designation.	Period of holding charge.	
					From	To
1	East Thána.	Mr. A. N. Master ...	Extra Assistant Conservator, 4th Grade.	Sháhápur Sub-Division Forest Officer.	1st April 1892 ...	30th June 1893
		„ W. F. D. Fisher ...	Assistant Conservator, 2nd Grade ...	Kalyán do. ...	Do. ...	10th May 1892.
		„ L. S. Osmaston ...	Do. 1st Grade ...	Do. do. ...	11th May 1892 ...	2nd June 1892.
		„ K. B. Phadke ...	Extra Assistant Conservator, 4th Grade.	Do. do. ...	3rd June 1892 ...	30th June 1893.
2	West Thána.	„ A. C. Robinson ...	Do. ...	Dáhánu do. ...	1st April 1892 ...	14th January 1893
		„ V. D. P. Rebeiro ...	Do. ...	Bassein do. ...	Do. ...	30th June 1893.
	Surat.	„ K. B. Phadke ...	Do. ...	Surat do. ...	Do. ...	19th May 1892.
		„ R. H. Madan ...	Do. 2nd Grade ...	Do. do. ...	20th May 1892 ...	27th May 1892.
		„ C. G., Dalia	Do. 4th Grade ...	Do. do. ...	28th May 1892 ...	30th June 1893.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS OF THE FOREST DEPARTMENT.

192. I have much pleasure in acknowledging the cordial assistance and support which I have invariably received from the Collectors. If it had not been for their hearty co-operation, my task in conducting the administration of this Circle would have been beset with greater difficulties than it actually was, especially as I was new to the Konkan and Gujarát, and I had consequently much to learn when I took over charge.

193. The relations between the local Revenue and Forest officers were maintained on a harmonious footing throughout the year, and the Divisional Forest Officers one and all have displayed good sense and tact in their dealings with their respective Collectors.

ESTABLISHMENTS AND THEIR RECRUITMENT.

194. The Divisional Forest Officer, Surat, has experienced considerable difficulty in recruiting the lower protective staff chiefly for the forests of the Dángs and Mándvi ranges. These localities being notoriously unhealthy, the better class of men—Maráthás from the Deccan and the Konkan—have a perfect aversion to serve there. In order that they may be induced to do so it has been proposed to Government to sanction the grant of a special local allowance, and it is hoped by these means it will be possible to supplant the local men, who have been found inefficient, lazy and untrustworthy.

195. All the Collectors support the Divisional Forest Officers in recording that the present subordinate establishments generally are exceedingly inadequate. Looking at the magnitude of the tasks set them it is not surprising that the general conduct of the lower protective staff leaves much to be desired. But there is no doubt that with an establishment of the strength demanded by the work, and justified by the revenue derived from the forests, a considerable improvement in this direction might be expected.

FOREST INSTRUCTION.

196. Mr. Gleadow, Professor of Forestry at the College of Science, Poona, conducted his students on a tour over some of the forests, plantations and depôts in the Sháhápur Range during the month of December 1892. Mr. Millett, who at the time had not been relieved of the East Thána Division, accompanied the party for a few days and helped the Professor in explaining to the students the different operations which were in progress.

GENERAL REMARKS.

197. An important and explicit ruling came out during the year on the vexed question of the disposal of trees in occupied lands in the Thána and

Kolába districts. The final orders of Government therein expressed are that "in all occupied lands, whether classed as rice, garden, rabi or varkas the right to all royalty trees, *viz.*, teak, blackwood and sandalwood, and, in the tálukas coming under the Sanján and Kolvan settlements, tiwas vests in Government. .... As regards rice, garden or rabi lands Government will, as an act of grace and favour, waive its rights to trees whether reserved or unreserved standing on such lands..... But in varkas lands the felling of teak, blackwood and sandalwood trees and tiwas where reserved, without the permission of the Collector, is strictly forbidden..... As regards unreserved trees..... no claim should be made to them on varkas or other occupied lands."

198. These orders may affect the timber trade of the Thána District hereafter, but they have not done so this year (1893-94), as the departmental sales held last August have been successful beyond all precedent. Not only were the prices offered higher than ever before, but the percentage of coupes remaining unsold was much smaller. The demand was even so great that offers were pouring in, after the year's sales had been held, to take up the unfelled compartments of the years 1889-90 and 1890-91. Moreover, it is satisfactory to notice that the Collector of Thána has, through his Assistants and subordinates, warned the occupants that if by reckless fellings in their holdings they deprive themselves of ash-manure material they must not look to Government to make good the supply in after years from State forests. The removal of royalty trees is also regulated in a satisfactory manner. Through the courtesy of the Revenue head of the district every application is referred to the Forest Department in order that its officers may have the means of judging of each case on its merits before it is disposed of.

199. The occupants have not so far abused the liberality of Government, and as long as the measures introduced by Mr. Sinclair to safeguard the interests of the State are carefully observed, there is no fear of the concessions proving otherwise than beneficial to the people.

200. Having had no opportunity of gaining any experience whatever of the Konkan and Gujarát forests previous to my appointment to this Circle, my first tour was planned both for the purpose of instruction as well as of inspection. I had arranged to visit all the divisions before the rains, and if I had not been compelled to wait in Surat until my personal office establishment could be organized, I might have had no difficulty in carrying out my original intention. But the supervision of the extensive and important timber and other operations in the Thána and Dángs forests took all the time at my disposal, and consequently I had to defer my inspection of the Panch Maháls forests to another year.

201. Leaving on the 5th December, after having got together a small establishment of one clerk and three peons from the sanctioned staff, I marched through the Bulsár Range accompanied by the Divisional Forest Officer for a few days and reached Bhilád in the Thána District on the 17th. During the time Mr. Wallinger and I were together we took the opportunity of taking stock of the old timber in the Wághrech sale depôt, as it appeared to me that the subordinates were perhaps trying to make too much of a sudden flood which had swept over the depôt in the rains to gain some dishonest purpose. This work resulted in the discovery of most of the timber which at first was reported to have been washed away to the sea and could not be found. From the 18th to the 23rd the important forests and depôts in the Umbargaon Range were visited and the camp was moved by rail during the Xmas week to Malyán. In the meantime arrangements for temporarily organizing my office were completed, and the clerks and peons seconded for duty from the Central Circle reported themselves to me after the holidays.

202. Going through the Dáhánu and Máhim ranges between the 3rd and the 14th January, I entered the Bassein Range on the 15th. Mr. Millett, Divisional Forest Officer, West Thána, joined me on the following day and conducted me through this range. What struck me most was that whereas, in the other ranges of his division I had already gone through, contractors had no intention of utilizing some of the inferior kinds of wood, the Bassein coupes

showed that every stick would be removed to which they were entitled under the terms of their agreements. On the 26th Mr. Greatheed, Divisional Forest Officer, East Thána, met me and went with me as far as Bhiwndi, where I had an opportunity of conferring with the Collector and the Divisional Forest Officer, Working Plans, on several important questions relating to the general forest administration of the Thána District. I left Bhiwndi on the 3rd February after paying a flying visit to the catchment area of the Pokhran Lake, which it is proposed to convert into meadow land for improving the quality of the water supplied to the town of Thána.

203. After travelling rapidly through the Kalyán and Murbád ranges, I reached Tánsa on the 20th February, and in company of Mr. Greatheed, who had gone there before me, inspected most of the forests round the lake. We then proceeded *viâ* Atgao to Khardi and from there advantage was taken of the Holi holidays to make a flying tour of inspection in the Mokháda Range from Kasára northwards to Koshimshet, the two offices and heavy baggage moving meanwhile to Suryámal, where they were rejoined on 6th March. From there I descended the Okde Ghát by the excellent road which has recently been completed by the Public Works Department. Mr. Greatheed following me, as there was some difficulty in procuring a sufficient number of carts for both establishments, and arrived at Váda on the 10th. Here a halt of three days was made to enable the two Divisional Forest Officers to effect the transfer of the executive charges sanctioned in Government Resolution No. 985, dated 4th February 1893.

204. From Váda I marched rapidly through the eastern portion of the Dáhánu and Umbargaon ranges which I had not been able to visit at the commencement of the season, and reached Sanjan on the 27th.

205. The whole camp was conveyed by rail to Bilimora during the Easter holidays on its way to the Dángs, arriving at Waghái on the 12th April. I did not leave the Dángs till the 22nd May, and would have done so some ten days earlier if I had not been prostrated by illness. I do not, however, regret the long time spent in these forests, however, as it enabled me to inspect thoroughly this valuable property and the timber operations carried on therein.

206. Mr. Wallinger having proceeded on privilege leave the day after my arrival at Waghái, and no officer being available to take his place, I performed divisional duties, in addition to my own, which also gave me an excellent opportunity of devoting special attention to the several works in progress. I regret to say that I found the fire discipline more lax than I expected to find it, and it was pointed out to the subordinates that, notwithstanding the difficulties they have to contend with, the wholesale devastation I saw wherever I went, would have been avoided if they had not shown such complete apathy in the matter of fire conservancy.

207. I also noticed that the timber contractors were allowed too much their own way, and the leniency shown to them hitherto was liable to be grossly abused, if not checked, considerably. It appears to have been the rule in the Dángs to allow contracts of one season to run on indefinitely, and it seemed to me that when a requisition was sent in, it was an understood thing that, if the contractor for any reason whatever was unable to remove the material he had purchased within the time allowed him, he would be permitted to take it away as it suited his convenience. The effect of such a lax procedure was that the grantees indented for double or treble the quantity of timber or bamboos which they knew they could not cut and remove within a fixed period, and it was impossible for the Divisional Forest Officer to exercise any check whatever on their operations. This state of affairs was remedied during the year, and the traders now understand that no extension of time will be granted unless on very special grounds.

208. As there were symptoms of the monsoon setting in earlier than usual, I went hurriedly through the reserves near the town of Mándvi after leaving the Dángs, and arrived at Surat on the 28th May. Till the 3rd of the following month I stayed in Surat to give back charge of his division to Mr. Wallinger and to confer with Mr. Lely, the Collector, principally on the subject of establishing a wood depôt in that city, as the inhabitants were bitterly

complaining of the high price at which wood was selling in the market owing to the monopoly enjoyed by middlemen, who bought up all the wood as it came in and put their own price on it.

209. Before settling down for the rains at Bándra, my head-quarters, on the 9th June and while the two camps, both office and private, were being conveyed by rail, I paid a flying visit to Godhra in the Panch Mahál and inspected the Divisional Forest Office, and had an interview with the Collector on forest matters in general.

210. The work performed by Mr. Millett, Divisional Forest Officer, West Thána, during the period of this report, both in and out of doors, cannot be commended too highly. For six months he was in charge of both the Thána Divisions, whose very onerous duties would have severely tried the patience of a less energetic and zealous officer. One important work he has carried through successfully during the year, notwithstanding that he had very little time to spare for special work of any kind, was the compilation of the rules and standing orders relating to the Thána District. Mr. Sinclair's approbation of his services are couched in the following terms :—

"The Collector has much pleasure in recording his experience of its" (referring to the abstract) "value; and his sense of the trouble taken with it and with all his work by Mr. Millett; the good sense and good temper which have made that officer's administration of his division (and during many months of the two divisions) the most successful ever known to the district."

211. Mr. Greatheed prior to his appointment to East Thána was comparatively new to the Konkan and, therefore, his time was fully occupied in actively moving about his charge and making himself acquainted with the forests of his division before the year closed. The Collector writes :—

"There has been no serious complaint from any one in the division, and on the whole I have good reason to be well satisfied with the year's work."

212. This was the first occasion in Mr. Wallinger's term of service that he had to conduct the duties of a Divisional Forest Officer solely on his own responsibility, and, therefore, it gives me much pleasure to record that his management of the Surat and Dángs forests was not only successful but very praiseworthy. Mr. Lely, the Collector, observes in his covering memorandum that

"he considers that much credit is due to Mr. Wallinger for the zeal and intelligence with which he had done his work."

And in transmitting the same the Political Agent, Khándesh, states :—

"I have not been in the Dángs yet, and therefore cannot, I am sorry to say, make any remarks worth having on that part of Mr. Wallinger's report that deals with them. I will ask Mr. Dodgson, the present Dáng Demarcation Officer, how it is that the position of the pillars does not correspond with their place in the maps. The objection to notifying the Dáng forests as reserved forests under the Act is, I imagine, that the Dángs are foreign territory and that the forests are not Government property. But there is not, I think, any reason why we should not treat the Dáng people as though the Act were in force there just as we treat them as though the Abkári Act were in force there. That people will not voluntarily serve in the Dángs for pay that would be enough for them elsewhere, is quite certain: and so I think the pay of Dáng servants should be improved. And I join with Mr. Lely in saying that, so far as I have seen, Mr. Wallinger deserves much credit for his zeal and intelligence."

213. Mr. Fisher was placed in charge of the Panch Mahál Division when he had been only a very short time in the presidency, and consequently he was ignorant of the language and the people of the district he was called on to administer. He has gained some experience since then, and promises to be an efficient controlling officer.

214. The very arduous duties of a Working Plans Officer have been conducted by Mr. Fry in this Circle with his usual care and devotion to duty.

215. As a body, the Sub-Division Officers have done their work fairly well. Mr. Rebeiro in West Thána and Mr. Chunilál Gulábchand Dalia deserve to be specially mentioned for having worked sensibly and conscientiously.

216. The services of the following subordinates have been recognized as approved in the several divisional reports :—

1. Shaik Abas Shaik Alli Potrik
2. Husan Alli Mahomed Alli.
3. Mancherji Byramji Merchant.
4. Shaik Ahmed Nur Mahomed.
5. Sadáshiv Pándurang Limaye.
6. Ganesh Rámchandra.
7. Shaik Usman Shaik Idrus.

217. The Divisional Offices have been working with reduced strength for a part of the year owing to the transfer temporarily of some of the clerks to the Circle Office, and all the controlling officers are unanimous in reporting that the extra work thrown on them in consequence has been cheerfully performed.

218. The clerks of my personal office have worked industriously under the able superintendence of Mr. Shiwarám Bhikáji Rangnekar, the Head Clerk.

219. The records and accounts of all the Divisional Forest Offices were examined during the year, and no serious mistakes were discovered.

220. The black list of the year is a fairly heavy one. One executive officer was dismissed and another degraded from ranger Rs. 60 grade to forester on Rs. 40. Both of them appealed to Government, who refused to interfere with the decision of the head of the Department. In addition to the above, the services of 30 forest guards were dispensed with.

221. The mortality amongst the subordinate staff was not so heavy as in the previous year, the figures of the latter being 20 against 11 in 1892-93. The health of the subordinate establishments was fairly good, notwithstanding that cholera prevailed in parts of Thána, Surat and the Panch Maháls.

F. R. DASAI,
Deputy Conservator of Forests, Northern Circle.

Camp Bápsai, Thana District,
25th November 1893.